

## **The Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled):

Claim 12 (Previously presented) A closure mechanism for a beverage preparation machine comprising a lower part, an upper part, and a resilient member, the upper part and lower part being movable relative to one another from an open position in which a beverage cartridge can be received in the closure mechanism and a closed position in which the beverage cartridge is fixedly retained between the upper part and lower part, wherein in the closed position the closure mechanism contacts a top surface and a bottom surface of the beverage cartridge at or near a center of the beverage cartridge to exert a compressive force of greater than 50N, wherein the resilient member contacts at least a part of the top surface of the beverage cartridge, and wherein the resilient member is a viewing window.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The closure mechanism of claim 12 wherein the lower part comprises a raised portion which contacts a central portion of the bottom surface of the beverage cartridge.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The closure mechanism of claim 13 wherein the lower part is fixed and the upper part is rotatable relative to the lower part from the open position to the closed position.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The closure mechanism of claim 12 further comprising a cartridge mount interposed between the lower part and the

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upper part and being rotatable relative to the lower part and the upper part for receiving, in use, the beverage cartridge.